

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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NEWS ITEMS, NOTICES AND REPORTS MUST BE SENT TO THE OFFICE NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY EVENING OF EACH WEEK, IF THEY ARE TO APPEAR IN THE CURRENT NUMBER.

TRANSIENT NOTICES, FIFTY CENTS FOR EIGHT LINES, EACH INSERTION. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PERMANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

The damage by the high tides at Atlantic City during this present week has been unprecedented. Our editorial correspondent S. W. D. was fortunately on the spot when it occurred, and his next vacation letter will contain a graphic description of the scene.

THE CENTER.

Many dwellers near the outskirts of the town seem to feel aggrieved every time the Center is made the recipient of some improvement which they do not share. The building of another school house on Liberty Street, instead of somewhere towards the Orange line, has been a cause of dissatisfaction to some; others see undue favoritism in the graveling of the roads, the making of crosswalks, the distribution of gas and water, and so on. Now, these feelings on the part of suburbaners are very natural, but not wise. We know they are natural from personal experience, and we know that they are not wise from sober reflection.

A prime factor in this feeling of discontent is a sense of injustice—a belief that a fair share of taxes is paid and a fair share of benefit is not received. Now this belief is not well founded. A circle having the flagstaff at the foot of the Park as a center, and a radius of half a mile more or less, would include by far the greater part of the people and property of Bloomfield. If the taxes paid and money expended within this circle and without it could be tabulated, it would probably be found that the ratio between the two would not be far from what it ought to be on a dollar and cents basis. But a dollar and cents basis is not a proper one to use in adjusting the amount of public money to be expended on different sections. Even though it should be found that the Center received much more than it paid, that would not prove that it received more than its proper share. Would the one extremity of the town submit to the placing of common property in the other extremity? Not at all. The contending and conflicting interests of its sections fix churches, schools, post office, and stores in the center of the township, just as surely and inevitably as the opposing centrifugal and centripetal forces fix the sun in the center of the solar system. These things, then, are where they are, not because the people who live within a few hundred feet of them wished it, but because the rest of the community consciously or unconsciously insisted upon it. The same law which fixed the position of most of our common property and common conveniences determines where the greater part of the public funds shall be expended. If there is not enough of something to go all around, then it must be put where it will benefit the greatest number the most.

But who are they, after all, who receive the greatest amount of profit, ease, convenience, and satisfaction from the roads, the sidewalks, the gas-lamps? The people in front of whose houses they are? By no means; but, on the contrary, the people who live beyond. The person living next door to a church can reach his front gate in the evening, after attending service, with perfect ease and comfort, assisted by the light of the church lamps, but residents from more distant regions depend on the lamp in front of his door to light them on their way. The inhabitants of the Center, as a rule, do not own houses, and therefore cannot use the hard gravel roads, but trucks and farm wagons, which come from the outskirts and beyond, pass over them and cut them to pieces. Should they object to pay somewhat for their repair? A very few men paid for the stone sidewalks, but hundreds, every day, pass over them, and enjoy immunity from dust and mud. Should these hundreds, having the sidewalk for nothing, object if the town connects them with suitable crosswalks? It is thus easily seen that the dwellers beyond, whose day must go to and pass through the Center, do because of their number and position, receive in the aggregate by far the larger share of the benefits of money expended there.

When Mahomet could not induce the mountain to come to him, like the shrewd and witty fellow that he was he made a virtue of necessity, and himself went to the mountain. So, likewise, the possessors of many acres far off from that core of territory, which seems so blest with favors, cannot, even by much thought or talk, move them one inch towards it, but they can and will, if they are wise, assist in expanding this land, which flows with silver milk and golden honey, till it touches and includes them. Fighting with the inevitable is foolishness; bending energies to render actual the possible has made many a man rich.

OUTDOOR RECREATIONS.

The sudden increase in the number of our summer resorts has given an universal impetus to all forms of healthful outdoor recreation. Boating, fishing, and bathing have attained a popularity before unknown.

The American so devoted to study or business as to neglect his summer holiday will soon be forgotten. Whatever may be the cause of so marked a change in our national life, its good results are beyond question.

Some dangers need, however, to be guarded against—such disasters as that upon the steamer Riverdale should be rendered impossible under a more rigorous system of steamboat inspection, and greater care in the licensing of captains and engineers.

But beyond these dangers of steam navigation are others connected with the handling of sailing and fishing vessels. Not a few of these smaller craft have been lost through the carelessness or inexperience of those in charge of them. Recently, the Mystery, a small sloop which took part in the races at Newport, was lost with all on board. She was found with her topsails set—a dangerous condition for a sailing vessel at night; so hundreds of others are lost, whom ordinary care and foresight might have saved.

Add to these disasters the cases of drowning at our ocean resorts, and we have a result which is truly appalling. Not only children, but in many cases experienced swimmers, have lost their lives through daring or foolish exploits. The remedy for these evils is not to avoid going "near the water." Hardness of body is not won by excessive prudence. We may, however, look the perils in the face, and allow ourselves to be guided by prudence and a judicious reliance upon the teachings of experience.

The large number of streams in our village give unusual facilities for bathing and fishing, which the younger element of our population is not slow to recognize. Such enjoyments should not be discouraged. They tend greatly to increase the healthfulness of those engaged in them. A knowledge of the art of swimming also frequently results in the saving of life. We would, however, like gently to protest against the bathing in streams in close proximity to our public thoroughfares. Not a little of this has been indulged in the past summer, and that, too, without the formality of bathing dress. With the growth of our village it would seem that the time had arrived when some limits should be placed upon indulgence in this otherwise praiseworthy enjoyment.

Saratoga Letter.

(FOR THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.)

THE KENSINGTON, SARATOGA. Aug. 28, 1883.
The chief interest of last week in Saratoga centered around the garden party at the Grand Union Hotel, which came off with unusual éclat upon Friday last. Ten thousand invitations were issued for Thursday, but as usually happens on days set aside for out-of-door fêtes, the rain kept falling all day, and the atmosphere was intolerably sultry. Great was the disappointment especially among the little ones, to whom a day of waiting seems a year. But Friday was clear and cool, and precisely at four o'clock the children were upon the ground marching first in procession, and afterwards tripping like so many fairies over the lawns and dancing merrily upon the platform to the music of Lothian's band. At seven, the children, wearied with a surplus of enjoyment, went off to their supper, and afterwards to their little couches to dream, perhaps, of the brilliant scenes through which they had just passed. The evening garden party for adults began at nine. The grounds were brilliantly illuminated with thousands of Chinese lanterns, to which was added the powerful glow of electric lights; and fairy land itself seemed to be for once realized upon earth. Such a vast throng of people crowded the piazzas, the grounds, and the platform that the promenade at one time seemed impassable. Hundreds of elegant toilets glittered under the brilliant lights, and as for jewels, they flashed in such profusion upon every side that Golconda's mine itself could not have contained more wealth. Solitaire earrings, worth any where from five to fifteen thousand dollars, and diamond necklaces quoted at fabulous prices abounded. Bracelets and bugs, stars, beetles, crosses and crescents, all made of glittering gems, flashed upon white arms and amid luxurious tresses. Rich brocades, and dresses of finest lace, velvet trains, and marvellous costumes embroidered in pearls, swept over the piazzas and went down the garden walk to dazzle the eyes of the unaccustomed provincial visitors, many of whom had come to Saratoga especially to attend the garden party. And yet, in despite of all this richness, many of the toilets were most inappropriate for the occasion. Low necked dresses and short sleeves are better suited to a ball room than to an out-of-door fête; but many ladies appear to leave themselves entirely in the hands of their dressmakers, without exercising any individual taste of their own. A dress may be in perfect taste, and very beautiful in itself, and yet be ridiculous if worn upon certain occasions. As, for instance, when a lady puts on a very elaborate costume of satin and lace which is without sleeves, with simply a narrow ribbon tied over

the arm to wear at breakfast in a Saratoga hotel, and afterwards to ramble through the park in the same toilet, even the most charitable observer would say that such a lady is either not a lady, or has not the dimmest idea of what belongs to propriety, or good taste in matters of dressing. Such a display is frequently seen in Saratoga, and made by a lady against whom scandal has nothing to say.

Several such toilets made their appearance at the garden party, not to be admired and envied by all—as perhaps their fair wearers supposed—but to be criticised mercilessly, to be sharply commented upon by the gossip, and disdainfully spoken of by the men. Certainly womanly vanity and frivolity is something to wonder at, even if women do not go to the extreme folly of one who telegraphed yesterday to New York for an elegant dress, to wear to this same party, against whom scandal has nothing to say.

Among the noted guests at the party were ex-Governor Hendricks and his wife, Judge and Mrs. MacArthur, District-Attorney of Washington, Senator Henderson, of Indiana, who stands by Governor Hendricks to keep off the villainous reporters. General D. C. Sickles, who however was able to attend only the afternoon session, and Senator Francis Kernan, ex-Mayor Vanx, of Philadelphia, Hon. B. B. Hotchkiss and wife, of Paris, and Judge John K. Brady and family. Mr. Emory A. Storrs wore one of the most brilliant toilets, with a toilet to match. Mr. Stephen S. Remak was also arrayed in faultless Philadelphia style, while the Hon. John Kelly, of Iammany fame, beamed broadly upon the scene, with an air of infinite good humor. Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt forgot Maud S. for a little time to enjoy the gayety around him.

Among the belles were Miss Bruce, a belle from the blue grass region of Kentucky, and daughter of Colonel S. D. Bruce, editor of the *Turf, Field, and Farm*, in pale blue silk with point lace and jewels, Miss Rosemary Murray, lovely as ever in pink, Miss Murphy, of Brooklyn, charmingly arrayed in white, Miss Blanchard, of New York, in pale blue and white, Miss Billings, of Bridgeport, in canary satin and white lace, Miss Cecilia Murray, in white brocade, Miss Arthur, also in white, Miss Coar, in a very becoming toilet of satin and lace, and Miss Woodruff in pink brocade. Mrs. A. T. St. John was dressed in black, with jewels of great value. Miss Moore, of Philadelphia, wore the most expensive dress on the grounds—white point lace dress over terra cotta satin, with sixty thousand dollars' worth of diamonds.

But it would be impossible to even mention the notables who graced the garden party with their presence. So we forbear further description of the event, which was undoubtedly the most brilliant success of the season.

Upon the same evening the Bar Association had their annual dinner, which is said to have lasted far into the "wee sma' hours of morning," and, as very few of the legal lights have put in an appearance since that important occasion, it would seem as though a legal dinner was something still less easy to be digested than a legal brief! However, the lawyers had a merry time of it while it lasted, and whether they accomplished anything in the way of bringing about an era when justice shall reign, during their stay in Saratoga remains yet to be seen.

Mr. James H. Rodgers, the gentlemanly and popular proprietor of the Kensington Hotel, was last week the recipient of a superb floral favor, from the husband of a lady who was accidentally thrown from her carriage in front of this hotel. The lady was immediately brought and cared for in the tenderest manner, and a few evenings later came the flowers as a testimonial of gratitude for the kindness and hospitality extended by Mr. Rodgers. The flowers were in a large cross and anchor, about eight feet long and four feet wide, with the name "Kensington" upon the cross-piece. It now decorates the parlor, and has been much admired by all. No doubt, the popular leader of the Kensington orchestra, will have a benefit concert upon Wednesday evening, which will probably be a fine success. Miss Kellogg's concert at the State house last week was a fine affair, and may be repeated. The weather here now is superb, the coolness of September blending with the glow of August, and Saratoga is still filled to overflowing. It is a little unfortunate that the politicians have decided to hold their conventions elsewhere, but, then, who cares for the politicians?

SOPHIE SPARKLE.

Canvassers Wanted.

The manager of THE CITIZEN wants one or two young ladies or gentlemen to solicit subscriptions in Bloomfield and vicinity. As no systematic canvass of the township has yet been made, it is fair to presume that a goodly number of subscribers may be obtained. Liberal commission.

The knowledge of courtesy and good manners is a very necessary study. It is, like grace and beauty, that which begets liking and an inclination to love one another at the first sight, and, in the beginning of an acquaintance, a familiarity, and consequently, that which first opens the door and introduces us to better ourselves by the examples of others. If there be anything in the society worth taking notice of.

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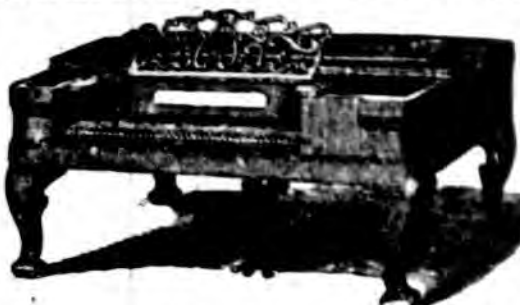
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